

92 9. (Amended) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance that forms boron glass is boric acid, boron oxide, alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal borates.

10. (Amended) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 further comprising, 35-70 wt.% based on the total weight of an organic binder system formulated in a liquid, semi-liquid or paste consistency.

93 14. (Amended) A method for surface hardening of metal surface comprising applying to at least a portion of said surface a composition comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, and thereafter subjecting said surface to a surface hardening treatment.

Kindly delete Claims 2, 4 and 6, without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 17 and 18, as follows:

94 17. (New) A hardening protection composition for partial carburization of the metallic components, comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium silicon compound, wherein the substance that forms boron glass and the magnesium silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1 and wherein the substance that forms boron glass is boric acid, boron oxide, alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal borates.

18. (New) A hardening protection composition for partial carburization of a metallic component, comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound, wherein the substance that forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound

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are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1 and 35-70 wt.% based on the total weight of an organic binder system formulated in a liquid, semi-liquid or paste consistency.

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